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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I think the proposed settlement is disgusting from a consumer standpoint. It does nothing to improve the climate of competition in the Operating System/software sector. Microsoft's contention that the status quo allows for improved innovation is patently absurd on its face and I think actually this proposed solution will have a continuingly negative effect on improvement in the software field. Microsoft has in the past and continues in the present to attempt to block any competitive innovations. They have perverted standards to their own benefit and refused to allow others to write software which will work well with the Windows OS. They provide crippled renditions of proprietary software included with their own in attempt to drive competitors from the marketplace. Microsoft have made it virtually impossible to purchase a consumer grade computer with any operating system other than windows. My own personal experience has required me to spend over a thousand dollars during the past 5 years for software that I have never used and will not use in the future. By requiring that peripheral companies to only develop drivers for the Windows OS I am prevented from using many pieces of hardware that would make my computers more functional. I think the proposed solution should be dismissed out of hand. It does nothing to protect consumers and the computer industry in general from the monopolistic practices of Microsoft. It contains no real penalty for MS and encourages continued anticompetitive practices on Microsoft's part.